

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 DPW-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

EUR-25 NEA-10 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 ISO-00 /221 W

----- 015327

R 030853Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9524

UNCLAS SAIGON 20288

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY MEETING IN MR-2

FOLLOWING TEL FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG RECEIVED DEC 01, 1973
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED FOR YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS NHA TRANG 0891

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY MEETING IN MR-2.

1. A MEETING OF MR-2 PROVINCE CHIEFS AND MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES WAS CONVENED IN NHA TRANG 30 NOVEMBER 1973. PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KHIEM, ACCOMPANIED BY THE VICE PRIME MINISTER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CRDC, AND TEN OTHER MINISTERS, CHAIRED THE MEETING.

2. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE 1973 CRLD PLAN IN MR-2. OTHER MAJOR TOPICS INCLUDED REVIEWS OF PROVINCIAL PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY, REVIEW OF FLOOD DAMAGE. NARCOTICS ERADICATION, PSDF, ETC.

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3. THE RRDC STAFF GAVE A SUMMATION OF THE MR-2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 1973 CRLD PLAN.

4. EACH PROVINCE CHIEF, EXCEPT QUANG DUC'S WHO REMAINED IN PROVINCE DUETO THE MILITARY SITUATION, GAVE A TEN-MINUTE REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CITED OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS AND PROBLEMS LIMITING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PLANNED GOALS. AT THE CONCLUSION, EACH OF THE MINISTERS WERE CALLED ON TO ANSWER SPECIFIC REQUESTS AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AS NECESSARY.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE BRIEFLY MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE 1974 RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS PREPARED FOR CONDITIONS OF A CEASE-FIRE, BUT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ADHERED TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, SO THE CRLB PLAN MUST BE REVIEWED AND REDRAFTED.

B. THE REVISED PLAN SHOULD HAVE TWO OVERALL OBJECTIVES: DEFENSE AND RECONSTRUCTION. PROVINCES ARE TO PUSH DEVELOPMENT AS MUCH AS THE SECURITY SITUATION WILL ALLOW. EXISTING PROGRAMS WILL BE REVIEWED TO SEE WHICH CAN BE CONSOLIDATED WITH OTHERS AND WHICH MAY NEED TO BE ELIMINATED.

C. THE GREATEST CONCERN IN 1974 WILL BE THE ECONOMY. EVERY

EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO STABILIZE PRICES AND IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE. FUEL SUPPLIES WILL BE REDUCED. STORAGE AREAS MUST BE CAREFULLY GUARDED.

D. THE NEW MODIFIED HAMLET EVALUATION SYSTEM MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED CORRECTLY AS IT WILL MEASURE THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. MILITARY REGION 2 MUST CONVEY A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE NEW HEU AND TO TRAIN OFFICIALS.

6. THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON VICE PRIME MINISTER VIEN TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AT THE PARIS PEACE TALKS WITH THE VIET CONG. MR. VIEN RECALLED THAT THE PARIS MEETINGS HAD BEGUN 19 MARCH 1973 AND HAD COMPLETED 30 SESSIONS. THE 31ST, SCHEDULED FOR 30 NOVEMBER, IS BEING BOYCOTTED BY THE OTHER SIDE IN PROTEST OF THE VNAF RAIDS AT KATUM, MR-3.

7. VIEN SAID THE SESSIONS WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE STAGES:

A. FIRST STAGE (SESSIONS 1-8): THE GVN TRIED TO WORK WITH THE VN ON A COMMON AGENDA AND TO SETTLE THE POLITICAL STATUS OF

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SOUTH VIETNAM QUICKLY AND ACCOMPLISH A GENERAL ELECTION BY AUGUST 1973. THE OTHER SIDE DISAGREED WITH THIS APPROACH AND DEMANDED THE GVN CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT REGARDING THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, RELEASE OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD AND THEN GENERAL ELECTIONS.

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE 90-DAY PERIOD PROVIDED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE GVN PROPOSED A JOINT DECLARATION REGARDING

THE POLITICAL STATUS OF SOUTH VIETNAM WITH A CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION. THIS WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE VIET CONG DELEGATION. WHEN THE GVN AGREED TO AN AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED THE FOUR POINTS INSISTED UPON BY THE OTHER SIDE, THE VC THEN DEMANDED TWO OTHER POINTS BE ADDED: THE CESSATION OF FIGHTING AND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

B. SECOND STATE (9TH-13TH SESSIONS): BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS AND AWAITED THE OUTCOME OF MEETING BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO. THEIR COMMON DECLARATION RELEASED ON 13 JUNE 1973.

C. THICK STAGE (THE ACCUSTION STAGE, FROM THE 14TH SESSION TO THE PRESENT): BOTH SIDES BEGAN TO EXCHANGE ACCUSATIONS ON MILITARY VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THERE WAS A GRADUAL ESCALATION OF ACCUSATIONS RELATING TO COMMUNIST THEORY AND REGIME, THE NIXON DOCTRINE AND THE PERSONAL BEHAVIOR OF THE TOP LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES. MR. VIEN READ SOME EXCERPTS OF SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE PARIS SESSIONS TO PROVE HIS POINT. HE ALSO READ SOME ACCUSATIONS BY THE OTHER SIDE EXTRACTED FROM THE NEWSPAPER DIEN TIN PUBLISHED IN SAIGON THESE ACCUSATIONS RELATED TO THE "BARBAROUS TREATMENT BY THE GVN" OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE DURING AND AFTER THE TYPHOONS SARAH AND THELMA.

8. VIEN CONCLUDED THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OTHER SIDE AT THE 30 PARIS SESSIONS PROVED THEY INTENDED TO USE THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE MEETINGS AS TOOLS FOR PROPAGANDA WHILE THEY CONTINUED TO USE FORCE TO CONQUER SOUTH VIETNAM. SO, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS NEW SITUATIONS, HE CONCLUDED.

9. MR. VIEN'S 45 MINUTES WAS WELCOMED BY THE AUDIENCE, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN. THE SPEECH WAS OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED TOWARD RAISING THE MORALE OF THOSE PRESENT AND ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT THOUGH DIFFICULT AT BEST, THE GVN ACTUALLY ENJOYED THE UPPER HAND DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD, IN SEVERAL INSTANCES, PUT THE OTHER

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SIDE ON THE DEFENSIVE; AT ONE POINT HAVING THEM DENY THEY WERE COMMUNISTS. SPEAR UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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